

burdensome tax. This will surely result in more job losses in my State, where unemployment right now, Mr. Speaker, is 11.6 percent.

Please, colleagues, stand with me and fight this government takeover of our health care.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. LUETKEMEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken. Poll after poll now shows by overwhelming majorities that this health care proposal is being rejected by them.

What are their concerns? Seniors are concerned about their Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and their care in general, as this bill makes a \$500 billion cut in the Medicare program, which will lead to rationed care.

Small business owners are concerned about their businesses, as this bill will enact billions of new taxes, surcharges, and places new mandates on them that may cause them to lose their businesses.

Young people are concerned about their futures. Will the \$1 trillion price tag of this bill indebt them and their children for the rest of their lives?

This bill does not lower the cost of health care. According to the Congressional Budget Office, it raises the cost of health care.

The American people don't see this bill as a solution to the health care problem. They see it as adding to the problem. They have spoken. We need to listen.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, this week, Democrats released 42 additional pages of the health care bill in their manager's amendment, meaning the total package now stands at 2,032 pages.

As I see it, the manager's amendment makes it more likely that we will see everyone in the exchange on a government-run plan within a few years of its creation. The amendment calls for insurers to report annual premium increases to the government and gives the administrator the power to kick insurers out of the exchange for increases that he or she deem to be excessive, a term that is left entirely up to the discretion of the administrator.

What we have been saying all year is that a plan that doesn't pay the cost of care will shift higher costs to private insurers, as hospitals and providers have to make up their losses on payments from the government. As costs are shifted, private insurers are left with no choice but to increase premiums.

Independent studies have shown that millions of people will be dropped from

their current coverage and put on the public plan. Now, with the manager's amendment, Democrats are simply quickening this transition by kicking insurers off their plan. It is a bad amendment, a bad bill, and it should be rejected.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SESTAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage the House of Representatives to stay in session until this health care bill brought forward this weekend is passed. I do that because about 4 years ago I lived down the street in Children's Hospital with my daughter, struck with a brain tumor. Given just a few months to live, we began our chemotherapy after the brain operation.

There was a young boy, 2½ years old, diagnosed with acute leukemia next to her, where we heard social workers argue for six hours whether that youth, whose parents didn't have health insurance, could stay.

I have always thought in my 31 years in the military how well we invested here in Congress in our military's health care plan because of the dividends it gave to me, for example, when I went to an 11½ month war, and yet my family and my daughter were taken care of and I was focused on the mission.

We lose \$200 billion a year in lost productivity because of the under and uninsured. Our small businesses pay an 18 percent tax in higher health care costs because we have not taken action over the last 10 years.

I urge my colleagues to stay in session, because doing nothing is not who we are.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BROWN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am a physician. I practiced medicine in Georgia for almost four decades. In health care, us providers try to do no harm. But, Mr. Speaker, this Pelosi health care takeover is going to destroy the quality of health care.

It is going to actually destroy poor people, and particularly Medicare recipients, from even having a doctor, because the cuts in Medicare are going to mean that doctors just can't afford to continue to see them, even though they want to.

It is going to destroy State budgets because of the increase in the Medicaid recipients that are going to be forced on to the State budgets, which means that it is going to hurt teachers and all the goods and services within the State.

It is going to destroy every family's budget because of the increased cost for everybody in this country, because

all goods and services are going to go up because of the increased taxes on all the business.

It is going to destroy jobs. It has been estimated that 5.5 million jobs are going to be lost. But, most of all, it is going to destroy our economy.

We need to destroy this bill.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you about a friend of mine, Kelly Conklin, who owns a small business in New Jersey, since that is what we have been hearing from many of my friends on the other side. It is a small woodworking business.

Each year, Kelly has to determine the best set of benefits at the best price based on his employees and their needs. Unfortunately, the options dictated to him by an insurer leave him with very few choices. He has zero negotiating power. That is why the exchange is a great idea for small businesses to deal with the problems, because offering coverage is the right thing for him to do and the best way for him to attract the most skilled employees.

Kelly is literally at the whim of his insurer. For 2010, he faces a 35 percent increase in premiums. How in God's name can we justify this by a bill that the other side has presented that is cheap because it doesn't do anything?

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Republicans are united against the Pelosi-Obama health care takeover, but it is not a partisan issue. This week, seven Democrat governors came out in strong opposition to the plan, including my Governor, Phil Bredesen, who called the plan "the mother of all unfunded mandates." Why? Because it adds millions of people to the State's Medicaid rolls, makes them cover them, without the money down the road to pay for it.

States have to balance their budget. They can't borrow \$1 trillion and just print the money and add it to the next generation. They have to balance their budget. The 10th Amendment gives rights to the States. The Federal Government is handing mandates to the States, and they have nowhere to turn except to raise taxes or dramatically cut their budgets. This is not fair to the States. It is the wrong thing to do.

Reject the Pelosi-Obama health care takeover.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)